



MEMORANDUM

To: Jeanne Burns, Louisiana
From: Brinnie Ramsey and Heather Graham, Education First
Re: Common Core State Standards Video Library Review
Date: May 2013

This memo presents an overview of free, publicly available video resources for teachers that support implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The video libraries reviewed here were selected from resource links on CCSS-oriented websites (e.g., Achieve, CCSSO, EngageNY), from recent Education Week articles about Common Core online resources and from recommendations by Education First staff.¹ To find video libraries, we reviewed 36 websites in total: 24 organizational websites, 10 state education agency websites and two district websites (see Attachment A for a list of the sites reviewed). In general we found:

- The majority of the libraries we reviewed contain videos developed as presentations for awareness-building and professional development purposes. The videos include presentations by individuals on a range of topics including the rationale for the Common Core, overviews of the Common Core shifts and training modules on evaluation rubrics, classroom observations and assessment item writing. Created by the supporting agency, either the SEA or the organization, these videos generally are geared toward educators and policy makers, and most do not include classroom experiences with students.
- Four video libraries – LearnZillion, Teaching Channel, America Achieves, Share My Lesson – offer free videos of full-length lessons that illustrate the Common Core shifts. Along with the videos, these websites include resources for teachers to adapt these lessons to their own classrooms such as written lesson plans, PowerPoint slides, teacher commentaries on the lessons and supplemental materials and resource links to additional content. Lessons in these libraries are either created by teachers or created with input from teachers. EngageNY offers a few videos of full-length lessons, but this aspect of the website is still in development.
- None of the video libraries we reviewed has a complete set of lessons for each standard and/or for each grade level. LearnZillion, Teaching Channel, America Achieves, EngageNY and some of the SEA libraries are continually being added to and updated.

¹ Stephen Sawchuk, "AFT Partners With Private Firm to Provide Common Standards Resources," *Education Week*, June 19, 2012; Katie Ash, "Common Core Raises Profile of Virtual PD," *Education Week*, October 15, 2012; Katie Ash, "Common Core Dries Interest in Open Education Resources," *Education Week*, October 15, 2012.

- The processes for monitoring rigor and alignment to CCSS for most of the video libraries are unclear. LearnZillion, Teaching Channel and America Achieves monitor quality by soliciting teacher input. In addition, LearnZillion uses a specific protocol for teams of teachers to review lessons for alignment and rigor, and America Achieves uses rubric guides from EQuIP to help teachers assess the quality and alignment of resources.²

The video libraries highlighted below offer the most extensive and/or the most widely used collections. We have grouped them by the purpose for which they appear to have been designed.

Awareness Building

[Council of the Great City Schools \(CGCS\)](#): CGCS' video library contains two videos: a 30-second public service announcement on the Common Core (in English and Spanish), and a 3-minute video (also in English and Spanish) explaining how the Common Core State Standards will help students achieve at high levels and succeed in graduating and moving into colleges or careers. These videos are listed as resources on many other organizational and SEA websites.

[EngageNY](#): EngageNY's video library contains 38 videos and has been developed and maintained by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). There is a series of videos offering examples of CCSS-aligned mathematics lessons in elementary school (9 videos), and the rest of the videos currently available on the website are presentations by individuals (e.g., the NY Commissioner of Education, the creators of the Common Core, state leaders) focused on unpacking the individual Common Core shifts, CCSS-aligned assessments and raising awareness for parents and families. NYSED plans to add videos from around New York state that will capture teaching and evaluation along a developmental arc and include tags for characteristics like grade level, subject area, Common Core Standards, instructional shifts and teacher and leader evaluation rubric indicators. This collection is still being built.

[Hunt Institute/CCSSO](#): To support states as they continue to implement the Common Core State Standards, the Hunt Institute and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) commissioned a series of video vignettes (29 in all) that explain the Common Core in depth. Several of the key Standards writers were asked, in their own words, to talk about how the Standards were developed and the goals they set for all students. These videos were developed to help diverse groups – educators, policymakers, parents – better understand the breadth and depth of the Standards and how they will improve teaching, make classrooms better, create shared expectations, and cultivate lifelong learning for all students. The segments are organized into separate mathematics and English/language arts (ELA) sections, and demonstrate critical concepts related to each. Hunt Institute/CCSSO videos are listed as resources on many other organizational and SEA websites.

The SEA websites for [Kentucky](#), [Ohio](#) and [Pennsylvania](#) also include small sets of awareness-building videos targeted at educators, administrators and the general public.

² EQuIP (Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products) is an initiative of the American Diploma Project (ADP) Network designed to identify high-quality materials aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The initiative seeks to increase the supply of high quality lessons and units aligned to the CCSS that are available to elementary, middle, and high school teachers as soon as possible and build the capacity of educators to evaluate and improve the quality of instructional materials for use in their classrooms and schools.

Professional Development

[Achieve](#): This resource includes two videos that were developed by participants in Achieve’s pilot **CCSS-CTE Task Alignment** Workshops. These videos are geared primarily to mathematics and CTE (career/technical education) educators. However, Achieve expects that these videos can apply to other professional learning opportunities, including planned PD, in-school professional learning communities, or state or district efforts to create or improve instructional materials (including, but not limited to tasks) to ensure their alignment to the Common Core State Standards (as well as their authenticity and relevance). The library includes a video for potential organizers/facilitators of CCSS-CTE Task Alignment workshops and a video for recruiting potential participants for CCSS-CTE Task Alignment workshops.

[Achieve the Core](#): This collection from Achieve the Core includes a set of four videos that demonstrate the instructional shifts required by the Common Core in **mathematics**. Additional links are provided on this site to the America Achieves’ video library of actual lessons.

[Colorín Colorado](#): This video library helps educators and others explore what the Common Core State Standards mean for **English language learners** (ELLs). The library offers videotaped interviews with educators, policy makers and researchers and a set of professional development videos that feature teachers from Albuquerque, New Mexico working with Dr. Diane August to create lesson plans for English language learners (ELLs) that are aligned to the CCSS. The videos highlight the process that the teachers went through to get to know the standards, to examine what the standards mean for ELLs, and how the standards will impact their own instruction. In these video interviews and journal entries, participants in the [Common Core in the Classroom](#) project share their thoughts about what the new standards will mean for their students. This library and the accompanying resources are the result of a collaboration between the Albuquerque Federation of Teachers and Colorín Colorado, and was funded by the American Federation of Teachers Innovation Fund.

[OER Commons Evaluation Rubrics and Tool](#): This set of nine videos, produced by Achieve, Inc., provides an overview and specific guidance on the use of the Achieve **OER Evaluation Rubrics**, which measure the quality of Open Education Resources.

[Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium](#): Smarter Balanced’s video library is a set of 21 videos designed to provide background on the **Smarter Balanced item and performance task development** process. The library is used to train teachers who were recruited by Governing States to write and review items and performance tasks for content, bias/sensitivity, and accessibility. Smarter Balanced developed the videos.

Some states and districts also have produced useful video libraries such as:

- [Colorado’s](#) 30-minute video provides an overview of the state’s **District Sample Curriculum Project** and explores the curriculum template and key aspects of the teacher-created CCSS-aligned curriculum samples.
- [Georgia’s](#) library provides video professional learning sessions, produced by the Georgia Department of Education in partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting, on the Common Core and the **Common Core Georgia Performance Standards** (CCGPS). There is a session for every grade level for mathematics and ELA and sessions for 6th to 12th grades in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects.
- [New York City’s](#) Department of Education provides a set of 12 videos, produced by the Department, that highlight **teachers in NYC classrooms using specific instructional shifts**.

Classroom Lessons and Instructional Support

[AFT Share My Lesson](#): Share My Lesson offers a collection of video lessons and activities (136 related to CCSS) for various grade levels, aligned to the Common Core. Some of these lessons were developed by teachers; others have been borrowed from other sources such as the Teaching Channel. Share My Lesson was developed by the American Federation of Teachers and TES Connect, one of the largest networks of teachers in the world.

[America Achieves](#): Videos on this site illustrate the key instructional shifts demanded by Common Core implementation. This site features lesson videos, videos of teacher discussing their lessons, analysis videos inside the lesson modules, samples of student work and supplemental materials. A database of lessons is searchable by grade, domain, subject or CCSS shift. Currently, lessons are available in math and ELA for grades 2 through 9. The website notes that America Achieves plans to have at least one math and one ELA video module available in each of grades K-12 by Fall 2013. Teachers featured in the lessons here are from public and charter schools in seven states.

[Learn Zillion](#): LearnZillion's library contains over 2,000 CCSS-aligned lessons written by 123 teachers from 29 states. The site requires registration but is free for teachers and parents. A Common Core Navigator option on the site allows teachers to search for lessons by grade, standard or domain. There are lessons for all grades in math and ELA, although not every standard has a lesson, and elementary lessons outnumber high school lessons. In addition to the lesson video, there are coaches' commentaries on the lesson (also on video) and a guided practice video. Teachers also have access to printable materials and presentation slides. LearnZillion also provides a protocol for identifying whether lessons are aligned to the CCSS.

[Teaching Channel](#): Teaching Channel is a non-profit organization launched in 2011 to provide "a video showcase of inspiring and effective teaching practices." Teaching Channel videos are produced through a collaborative effort between video production experts, education advisors and classroom teachers. Teaching Channel does not determine or influence the content taught in its videos. There are 169 CCSS-aligned lesson videos currently on the site ranging in grade level from PreK-12. Videos can be accessed by topic, grade or subject. The website provides ancillary material (lesson planners, discussion boards, notes feature) for teachers to use with the videos in their own classrooms. There is also a library of videos that can be customized by teachers to fit their individual teaching and classroom needs.

Attachment A – Websites Reviewed for Video Libraries

The sites listed here but not included in the memo were omitted because they do not contain video libraries or the videos they contain are produced by organizations already listed in this document. We did not assess any materials that were not free.

Organizations:

Achieve
Achieve the Core
AFT Share My Lesson
America Achieves
BloomBoard
Colorín Colorado
Council of Great City Schools
Curriki
Education Commission of the States
EduCore
EngageNY
EQuIP
Hunt Institute/CCSSO
IDEA Partnership
Learning Forward
Learn Zillion
NEA
OER Commons
PARCC
PD360/Common Core 360 (not free)
SBAC
Shared Learning Collaborative
Teaching Channel
TNTP

SEA/LEA websites:

Arkansas
Colorado
Georgia
Houston ISD
Illinois
Kentucky
New Mexico
New York City
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Tennessee
Utah